

Agric 1101, Topics in Agriculture (Ref 10272)
RuSoc 2203, Topics in Rural Sociology (Ref 10804)

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Fall Semester 2008
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:15 pm
Room 28 Schweitzer Hall
3 Credit Hours

Instructors:

Dr. Fred Martz Emeritus Professor, Animal Science S 103c Animal Science Center Tele: 882-6476 Email: MartzF@missouri.edu Office Hours: Friday, 9:00am – 12:00pm or by appointment	Bill McKelvey Program Associate, Rural Sociology 203 Gentry Hall Tele: 882-1104 Email: mailto: McKelveyWA@missouri.edu Office Hours: Wednesday, 1:00 -3:30pm or by appointment
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Course description: This is an experiential course that provides an overview of the theoretical and practical principles of sustainable agriculture. It combines classroom teaching, readings, guest lectures, and field visits to give students a well rounded understanding of the holistic nature of sustainable agriculture. The course also discusses and analyzes various approaches to agriculture based on sustainability principles and their impact on the environment, economy, and communities. Students will better understand the challenges to sustainable agriculture and its connections to policies from the local community to the global arena. The course has no pre-requisites.

Course objectives: Students who are attentive, study assigned readings, complete all assignments, and participate actively in class discussions should, upon completion of this course, be able to

- Identify and explain the three major components of sustainable agriculture: economic viability, environmental soundness, and social responsibility
- Use sustainability criteria to evaluate farming, processing, transportation, and marketing practices
- Explain the history and philosophy of sustainable agriculture
- Relate sustainable agriculture to local, regional, and international economic development and policies
- Identify and propose solutions to the challenges to sustainable agriculture and sustainable farmers and consumers

Course evaluation: Students will be evaluated on homework assignments, quizzes, reports, a final exam and classroom participation.

Homework (3 X 50 points/each)	150 points
Quizzes (4 X 50 points/each)	200 points
Field Trip/Event Reports (4 X 50 points/each)	200 points
Final exam	100 points
Classroom participation	<u>100 points</u>
TOTAL	750 Points
Extra Credit (5 X 10 points/each)	50 points

Text and Required Readings: There is no text book for this course. Required readings are listed in the Course Schedule and are available as PDF files or Internet Hyperlinks on Blackboard (<https://courses.missouri.edu/>). **You are expected to read the assigned readings before class.**

Field trips: Three field trips to local farms are planned for this course. All three are required. To receive credit, students are required to attend the field trip and write a report based on their experience. The farms are nearby and the field trips will occur during class time (Visits may take longer than the regular class time. However, every effort will be made to not exceed more than 30 minutes beyond the regular class time.). Two additional assignments will require students to visit off campus locations on their own or in small groups.

Academic Honesty: Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor. Thus, if we become aware of an incident of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarizing, etc) you will receive a grade of zero on the assignment/exam. In addition, we may report the incident to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies (room 111 Jesse) and the department chair.

Disabilities: If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with us, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform us immediately. Please see us privately after class or at our offices during scheduled office hours (Fred Martz, S 103c Animal Science Center, Friday, 9:00am to 12:00pm, or Bill McKelvey, Gentry 203, Wednesday, 1:00 – 3:30pm) or by appointment. To request academic accommodations (for example, a note-taker), students must also register with the [Office of Disability Services](http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu), (<http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 882-4696. It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

Intellectual Pluralism: The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions concerning the quality of instruction in this class may address concerns to either the Departmental Chair or Divisional leader or Director of the [Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities](http://osrr.missouri.edu) ([http://osrr.missouri.edu/](http://osrr.missouri.edu)). All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

Disclaimer: This syllabus and the class schedule are subject to change to facilitate instructional and/or student needs.